

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JDFORBES:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, KS

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE - GULF OIL OFFSHORE DRILLING

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
MAY 21. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS ON KOREA AT NOON
BRIEFING.

2. QUOTE:

QUESTION: THIS MORNING'S WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTS THAT
GULF OIL LILL PROBABLY ABANDON EXPLORATION FOR OIL
OFFSHORE KOREA IN AN AREA ALSO CLAIMED BY CHINA. THE
REPORT STATES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE URGED OIL
COMPANIES TO AVOID ACTIVITIES IN THE DISPUTED AREA.
CAN THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRM THAT REPORT?

ANSWER: THE DEPARTMENT HAS A LONG STANDING WORLDWIDE
POLICY OF RECOMMENDING THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES AVOID
ACTIVITIES IN AREAS WHICH ARE DISPUTED, AND THIS WAS
DONE IN THE CASE REPORTED THIS MORNING.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S
POLICY?

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ANSWER: OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD NOT WANT AN AMERICAN COMPANY
TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY DISPUTE IN AREAS LIKE THIS.

QUESTION: DOES THIS MEAN THAT YOU CANNOT GUARANTEE THE
SECURITY OF THEIR OPERATION?

ANSWER: I WOULD NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT MATTERS
OF THIS TYPE EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT, OBVIOUSLY, DISPUTED
TERRITORY PRESENTS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS OF MANY TYPES.

END QUOTE

ROBINSON

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